

**APPLICATION OF TODD M. THORNHILL
FOR ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE DIVISION 25
31st CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION
GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI (as adopted June 8, 2009)**

RESPONSES TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC IF THE APPLICANT IS NOMINATED.

NOTE – Please submit one (1) paper copy, with attachments, to each of the five (5) Commission members by mail.

1. Present principal occupation and title:
Chief Judge of the Springfield Municipal Division, 31st Judicial Circuit Court
2. What is your age? **54**
3. (a) How many years have you been a citizen of the United States? **54**
(b) How long have you been a Greene County resident? **29 years**
(c) How many consecutive years immediately preceding your application have you been a qualified voter of Missouri? **36**
4. State the date you were admitted to The Missouri Bar and whether your license is in good standing. If not, explain in detail.
1987. My license is in good standing.
5. List any other states, courts, or agencies in which you are licensed as an attorney.
None.
6. (a) State the name and address of all colleges and universities attended, other than law school, together with the dates and degrees received.

**Missouri State University
901 S. National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65897
1979-83, B.A. Philosophy Major, Writing Minor**

**Missouri Western State College
4525 Downs Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507
August-December 1979**

**University of Nevada
National Judicial College
Judicial College Building/MS 358
Reno, NV 89557
1994-2001 (8 weeks total)
Certificate in Judicial Development 2001**

- (b) List/describe any college or university activities, scholastic achievements and other awards or honors you think are relevant to the commission's decision.

**-Student Government Association-Missouri State University
-Phi Alpha Delta pre-law Fraternity-Missouri State University**

- (c) Attach a certified copy of college, university and law school transcripts here, or have the institutions send transcripts direct to the contact person.

7. (a) State the name and address of all law schools attended together with the dates and degrees received.

**University of Missouri School of Law
203 Hulston Hall
Columbia, MO 65211**

1984-87, Juris Doctor

- (b) List/describe any law school activities, scholastic achievements and other awards or honors you think are relevant to the commission's decision.

**-Moot Court Competition: University of Missouri School of Law
-Graduate/Professional Representative to the University of Missouri's
Intercollegiate Athletic Committee while in law school at MU**

8. State, in chronological order (starting with the earliest employment) (a) significant non-law-related employment prior to law school and (b) all employment from the beginning of law school to the present. To the extent reasonably available to you, include the name and address of each employer and the dates of employment, and, for legal employment, describe the positions you have held, e.g., associate, partner, law clerk, general counsel.

1. 1979-1999: Helped operate a family-owned business, Kimberling Oaks Resort, in Kimberling, City, Missouri. My mother, Donna Thornhill, was the owner: 40 Holiday Drive, Kimberling City, MO 65686.

2. Early 1980's summers: Mr. Ice Man, Branson, Missouri

3. 1983-84: Ruby Plumbing, Kimberling City, Missouri

4 1985-86: Law clerk for the Law Offices of Barbara H. Pape, P.C. Columbia,

Missouri

5. 1985: Summer Activities counselor at Ozark Mountain Resort in Kimberling City, Missouri

6. 1986: Summer law clerk for Woolsey, Fisher, Whiteaker, & McDonald, Springfield, Missouri

7. 1987-90: Associate attorney for Woolsey, Fisher, Whiteaker, & McDonald, Springfield, Missouri

8. 1990-93: Associate attorney for The Law Offices of Robert M.N. Palmer, P.C., Springfield, Missouri

9. 1993-94: Judge, Springfield Municipal Division, 31st Judicial Circuit

10. 1994-Present: Chief Judge, Springfield Municipal Division, 31st Judicial Circuit

9. If you were a student at any school from which you were suspended, placed on probation, or expelled by school authorities, for any reason, describe the circumstances.

I have never been suspended, placed on probation, or expelled for any reason.

10. Describe the nature of your experience in trial and appellate courts and explain how they demonstrate the quality of your legal work. **It is your responsibility to redact any information in your description that might be confidential; i.e. juvenile matters, etc.** *(You either may take as much space as you need here or attach your response on separate sheets).* Include in your response:

- (a) **Appellate Experience:** Please include a representative list of cases you have briefed and/or argued (if you are a judge, include representative cases from your practice prior to your judicial appointment) including, to the extent reasonably available to you, the style, date, and court and, if published, the citation; identify the client(s) you represented and opposing counsel; give a one-paragraph description of the case and your role.

1. ***Rozell v. Stieferman*, 726 S.W.2d 342 (Mo. App.W.D. 1987).** While serving as a law clerk at Woolsey, Fisher the summer of 1986, I worked closely with Mr. Harold (Hal) Fisher on numerous matters, including this case. I wrote the brief for Mr. Fisher. Opposing counsel was the Missouri Attorney General's Office. We represented the plaintiff in a libel action against Charles Stieferman, Director of Staff of the Missouri Clean Water Commission. The trial court in Cole County granted summary judgment to the defendant on the basis of "official immunity." On appeal, the case was reversed and remanded.

2. ***Taylor v. UPS*, 854 S.W.2d 390 (Mo banc 1993).** This was a slip and fall case in which we represented the plaintiff. Summary judgment was entered against plaintiff, and the issue on appeal was whether the appeal was timely filed based on timing matters surrounding a "motion to reconsider." While not involved with the motion to reconsider, I helped on the brief to the Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District. I don't recall if I had been appointed to the bench during the later appeal to the Missouri Supreme Court.

From 1987-93, I prepared the appellate record and briefs for approximately 5 cases.

- (b) **Trial-Level Experience:** Please include a representative list of cases and/or administrative hearings you have handled (if you are a judge, include representative cases from your practice prior to your judicial appointment) including, to the extent reasonably available to you, the style, date, and court; identify who you represented and opposing counsel; state whether the case was disposed of following a jury trial, bench trial or at what other stage; give a one-paragraph description of the case and your role.

1. *John Doe v. Ken and Nevon Lowe, d/b/a Lowe's Country Music Theater*, Case No. 90-3415-CV-S-4, United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri (1991-92). I represented an HIV-positive gentleman who was employed as a musician by defendants (represented by Brad Fisher). We alleged that he was terminated from his position because of his HIV status. We also alleged that his HIV status was communicated by his doctor to the defendants. The case against the doctor was settled before trial (the doctor was represented by Jeff Harrison). The case against the defendants was tried to Judge Russell Clark in a bench trial resulting in a plaintiff's verdict and resulting damages for lost past and future wages and attorney's fees.
2. *Thomas v. State Farm Insurance Company*, Case No. 490AC1281, 31st Judicial Circuit (1990). This was a first-party insurance payment case for medical bills. I represented the plaintiff. Monte Clithero of the Taylor, Stafford Law Firm represented the defendant. It was tried to a jury who awarded no damages, and we later settled for a reduced amount from the original bill in lieu of an appeal.

From 1987-93, I was involved in 10-15 jury trials and numerous bench trials at the state, federal, and administrative levels.

- (c) **Judicial Experience:** If you are a judge, commissioner, or are serving or have served in other judicial capacity, please describe the nature and extent of your judicial responsibilities, including the dates you have served as a judge at each level, the types of dockets you have handled, and any special expertise you have developed that you believe is relevant to your qualifications for the position for which you are applying.

I have served as a trial judge in the Springfield Municipal Court since 1993. During that time, I have presided over hundreds of misdemeanor-level (ordinance violation) bench trials, pleas, probation-revocation hearings, contempt proceedings, indigency hearings, motions to suppress, other pre- and post-trial motions, arraignments, and sentencing hearings. Also, in a separate role as an administrative hearing officer for civil cases

(on-the-record hearings), I have heard appeals from Police and Fire Disability Pension Board decisions, tax protests, nuisance cases, vicious dog cases, red-light camera cases, appeals in licensing cases—private investigators, taxi drivers, building trades—and challenges to the Springfield, Missouri zoning ordinances.

The art of deciding cases in a fair and impartial manner, while also assuring the APPEARANCE of impartiality, is critical to the justice system, and is an art I have constantly strived to hone while serving as a judge the last 22-plus years. Municipal court is where most people get their first, and frequently only, experience with the court system. Many defendants proceed *pro se* (without an attorney). Insuring that defendants and other attendees leave court with at least a sense of procedural fairness—including an understanding and appreciation that the judicial process they just experienced is separate and distinct from the executive (police and prosecutor) and legislative (city council) functions of government—is imperative, and is a goal I endeavor to meet in each and every case, regardless of outcome. Equally as important is insuring that self-represented defendants are treated fairly while simultaneously insuring that there is not even an appearance of favoritism for defendants against the city.

As chief judge during these years, in addition to my judicial duties, I have served as the department head of the municipal court with direct supervisory duties over the second division judge, *pro tem* judges, and the court administrator. In this role, I also have numerous administrative duties including budgeting, personnel matters, and scheduling.

Additionally, I have presided over the following jury trials:

1. *City of Springfield v. Waddell*, case no. 92-1074982, 31st Judicial Circuit, Springfield Municipal Division (1994). *Pro se* defendant was found guilty of Speeding, and affirmed on appeal at 904 S.W.2d 499 (Mo. App. S.D. 1995).
2. *City of Springfield v. Hibbets*, case no. 92-1076262, 31st Judicial Circuit, Springfield Municipal Division (1994). *Pro se* defendant was found guilty of Failure to Yield.
3. *City of Springfield v. Brooks*, case no. 31302MU0076, 31st Judicial Circuit (2002). *Pro se* defendant was found guilty of Obstructing a Police Officer, Trespassing, and Failure to Leave Drury University's Campus.
4. *City of Springfield v. Schnur*, case no. 303MU0056, 31st Judicial Circuit (2003). Defendant was represented by Richard Roustio in a Driving While Intoxicated case. A mistrial was declared when the jury could not reach a verdict.
5. *City of Springfield v. Davis*, case no. 31303MU0174, 31st Judicial Circuit (2004). *Pro se* defendant was found guilty of Obstructing a Police Officer.

6. *City of Springfield v. Barker*, case no. 313MU0033, 31st Judicial Circuit (2005). Defendant was represented by James Arneson in a Failure to Yield to an Emergency Vehicle case and found guilty.
7. *City of Springfield v. Ferguson*, case no. 304MU0049, 31st Judicial Circuit (2006). Defendant was represented by David Hall in a zoning case, and a mistrial was declared when the jury could not reach a verdict after a 3-day jury trial.
8. *City of Springfield v. Kreider*, case no. 31305MU0043, 31st Judicial Circuit (2006). *Pro se* defendant, later represented by David Shuler and Richard Bender, was found guilty at trial of Unlawful Entry into a Building. This case involved multiple pre- and post-trial motions, including a motion to revoke probation.
9. *City of Springfield v. Siano*, case no. 0931-MU00001, 31st Judicial Circuit (2009). *Pro se* defendant was found guilty of Nuisance and a Health Department violation.
10. *City of Springfield v. Newell*, case no. 1431-MU00021, 31st Judicial Circuit (2014). *Pro se* defendant was found guilty of Property Damage.

11. (a) Describe any additional legal experience that you believe may be relevant to the commission's decision, including clients by category that you have represented.

***Certificate of Completion of NITA's (National Institute for Trial Advocacy) 12-day course in 1990: Denver, Colorado**

***The Certificate in Judicial Development from the National Judicial College (NJC), University of Nevada, was awarded after successful completion of the following courses (40 credits):**

- Special Court Jurisdiction-Advanced (June 19-July 1, 1994)
- Traffic Court Proceedings (May 14-19, 1995)
- Sentencing Misdemeanants (April 29-May 2, 1997)
- Evidence (June 14-19, 1998) (Discussion Leader)
- Judicial Writing (July 26-30, 1999)
- Constitutional Courts (June 4-6, 2000) (Discussion Leader)
- Ethics for Judges (June 7-8, 2000) (Discussion Leader)
- Computer Uses for Judges (August 13-17, 2001)

***Other NJC Classes attended:**

- Management Skills for Presiding Judges (October 25-29, 2004)
- Impaired Driving Case Essentials (August 15-18, 2011) (Discussion Leader)
- Drugged Driving Essentials for the Judiciary (July 23-24, 2012)

***I am a frequent presenter on judicial/legal topics, including:**

- 1995: "Civic Virtue in Education, Politics, and Law," Missouri State University Philosophy Department Discussion Series
- 1995: "Handling the DWI Case: Old Problems and New Issues," Missouri Bar CLE
- 1997: "Basic Information that all Court Personnel Should Know," Missouri

Association for Court Administration (MACA)

- 1997: "DWI-What's it all About?" Office of State Court Administrator (OSCA) Sponsored**
- 1998: "Sentencing: Can we all be Right?" MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 1998: "DWI Revisited, Timely Topics" OSCA Sponsored**
- 1998: "Handling Large Dockets," MMACJA Annual Conference**
- 1998: "Collecting Restitution, Court Costs, and Recoupment of Arrest Costs," Municipal Judge Education Committee (MJEC)**
- 1999: "Court Procedures," SMBA Monthly Membership Meeting.**
- 1999: "Court Procedures," Leadership Springfield.**
- 2000: "Judicial Ethics," MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 2000: "Municipal Court Practice," SMBA CLE by the Hour**
- 2000: "Judicial Ethics," MJEC Annual Seminar**
- 2000: "Court Personnel Ethics," MACA Seminar**
- 2003: "Municipal Court Practice," SMBA Pizza and CLE**
- 2003: "Legislative and Rule Update," MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 2003: "Judicial Campaign Speech and Other Ethical Issues," Moderator, MMACJA Annual Conference**
- 2005: "Legislative Update," MACA Seminar**
- 2007: "Legislative Update," MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 2008: "Legislative Update" and "Ethics," MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 2008: "Questions and Answers to Common but Knotty Ethical and Procedural Problems," MMACJA Annual Conference**
- 2009: "Legislative Update," MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 2009: "Violation Bureaus: Procedures and Nuances," MMACJA Annual Conference**
- 2009: "Violation Bureaus: Procedures and Nuances," MACA Professional Development Seminar**
- 2010: "Legislative Update," MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 2011: "25 Questions: Always, Sometimes, Never," MMACJA Annual Conference**
- 2012: "Teen Court," Annual Conference of Missouri Victim Assistance. Network**
- 2012: "Evolution of the Municipal Court: Where do we Fit," MACA Annual Conference**
- 2012: "Whose Job is it Anyway," MACA Annual Conference**
- 2012: "Ethics," MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 2013: "Case Law Update," MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 2014: "Case Law Update," MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 2015: Moderator, MMACJA Regional Seminar**
- 2016: Panelist on "Senate Bill 5 and its Impact on Municipal Courts," upcoming MMACJA Annual Conference**

- (b) Describe any non-legal experience that you believe may be relevant to the commission's decision.

Being intimately involved in running a family-owned business on Table Rock Lake—Kimberling Oaks Resort—for 20 years taught a number of important

intangibles, including: the value of hard work, being on call at all times of the day and night, dealing with disgruntled customers, the importance of public perception, being organized, giving and receiving instruction, and appreciating the need for teamwork.

12. List all bar associations and other professional societies of which you are a member, with any offices held and dates.

-Missouri Bar Association

-Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association:

Bench-Bar Committee (2004-present)

Law Day Committee Chair (early 1990's)

**-Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Judges Association (MMACJA):
President (2000-01)**

Vice-President (1999-2000)

Treasurer (1997-1999)

Board Member (1996 to present)

Editor of BENCHMARK, the thrice-yearly publication of the MMACJA (2002-present)

Regional Seminars Chair (1996-98)

Nominating Committee (2004, 2012, 2015, 2016)

13. (a) List any professional articles or books authored by you that have been published or any special recognition or award of a professional nature you have received.

Articles I have authored:

-The ACETO Case: Suppliers of Hazardous Substances Being Held to Their Common-Law Duties, 20 BUREAU OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS (BNA) ENVIRONMENT REPORTER, 1148, November 3, 1989.

-Guilty until Innocent: Purchaser Liability Under Superfund, 46 JOURNAL OF THE MISSOURI BAR 423, September 1990.

-Commitment to Jail for Non-Payment of Fines, BENCHMARK, March 1995.

-Products Liability: The Open and Obvious Danger Rule, 51 JOURNAL OF THE MISSOURI BAR 203, July-August 1995.

-What is "Possession?" BENCHMARK, October 1996.

-Book Review of THE NORP THINK FACTOR, 33 COURT REVIEW 33, Summer 1996.

-Municipal Court Practice: Procedures and Pitfalls, 52 JOURNAL OF THE MISSOURI BAR 273, September-October 1996.

-Peace Disturbance: The Constitution and Other Aspects, BENCHMARK, April 1997.

-Nolle Prosequi and Double Jeopardy, BENCHMARK, December 1997.

-Why "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt?" BENCHMARK, December 1997.

-Declarations of the Dead: Hearsay's Residual Exception Comes to Missouri, 56 JOURNAL OF THE MISSOURI BAR 14 January-February 2000.

-Admissibility of Refusals: FSTs and Breath/Chemical Analysis, BENCHMARK, July 2007.

-You Make the Ruling, BENCHMARK (August 2002, December 2002, April 2003, October 2003, November 2004, June 2005, June 2006, February 2007, June 2007, February 2008, October 2008, June 2009, February 2010, February 2011, June 2011, October 2012, February 2013, June 2013, February 2014, June 2014, October 2014, February 2015, October 2015, February 2016).

-Whiskey-Laced Chewing Tobacco, Belching, and Vomiting: The 15-Minute Observation Period After White v. Director of Revenue, 70 JOURNAL OF THE MISSOURI BAR, 186 No. 4, July-August 2014.

-Violation Bureaus 102, BENCHMARK, February 2015.

Special Recognition: Springfield Business Journal, 40 Under 40 (2000).

- (b) List any other articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other material authored by you that have been published within the last five (5) years.

-Author of "Enforcement of Money Judgments: Collection of Fines and Costs," Chapter 13, Missouri Bench Book, Circuit Court, Municipal Division (2016 update publication pending).

-Author of Rule 37 Comparison Chart: MMACJA website.

14. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations in which you have significantly participated. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

-Missouri Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness member: Term commenced October 16, 2015 and ends June 30, 2019.

-Missouri Supreme Court Municipal Division Work Group member: May, 2015 to present.

-31st Judicial Circuit's Juvenile Court, Teen Court Program, volunteer judge: 2008-present.

-Missouri State University's English Department Advisory Council member: 2001-present.

-Twin Oaks Country Club, President, 2014; Vice-president, 2013; By-Laws Committee Chair, 2012.

-Jarrett Middle School Truancy Court, Volunteer Judge: 2004-2008.

-Programs for Youth board member: 2008-2013.

-Ozarks Regional YMCA board member: 1999-2007. 2nd Vice-President (2001), Facilities Chair (2002-07).

-Municipal Judge Education Committee (MJEC), editor of Benchbook for Municipal Judges (1997-2006).

- Referee of Upward Basketball for over a decade at Second Baptist Church, Springfield.**
- Little league coach of basketball, baseball, and soccer from 1999-2006.**
- Judge of numerous high school and middle school mock trials and speech and debate tournaments.**

15. Do you now hold or have you ever held an elective or an appointive public office or position? If yes, provide details.

Yes. I was appointed to a 4-year term by the Springfield City Council as second division judge in 1993, and then to my current position as chief judge in 1994. I was then reappointed for successive 4-year terms in 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013.

16. Please list any client(s) or organization(s) for which you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organization(s).

None.

17. Provide the branches and dates of (a) military service or (b) other public service not otherwise disclosed in this application. If discharged from the military, state whether the discharge was other than honorable.

None.

18. State whether you are able, with or without a reasonable accommodation, to perform the essential functions of being a trial judge.

I am able to perform all essential functions of being a trial judge.

19. Were you ever refused admission to the bar of Missouri or the bar of another state or the federal courts? If yes, provide details.

No.

20. Have you ever been disciplined, admonished or cited for breach of ethics or professional conduct by the Supreme Court of Missouri or by any court or bar association or committee thereof? If yes, provide details.

No.

21. If you are or were a member of the judiciary of the State of Missouri, please state:
- (a) Whether an order of discipline ever has been entered against you by the Supreme Court of Missouri for breach of the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Canons of Judicial Conduct. If yes, provide details.
- No.**
- (b) Whether a reprimand or admonition ever has been entered against you by the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline for any of the causes specified in Supreme Court Rule 12.07. If yes, provide details.
- No.**
22. Have you have ever been held in contempt of court? If yes, provide details.
- No.**
23. Have you ever been sued by a client or been a party to any other litigation, other than as guardian ad litem, plaintiff ad litem, or defendant ad litem?

Yes, I have been a party to other litigation.

If your answer is yes, state the style of the case, where it was filed, and explain in detail. If you are a judge and you have been sued in your judicial capacity, list only those cases where you are or were other than a nominal party.

1. ***Waddell v Davis, et al.*, case no. 194CC0332, 31st Judicial Circuit (1995). I was sued in my judicial capacity in a request for declaratory judgment. The nature of relief requested is somewhat difficult to describe, so a copy of the petition is attached.**
 2. ***Thornhill v. James Holden*, case no. 31488-635AC, 31st Judicial Circuit (1990). I filed suit in my personal capacity against the defendant over the purchase of a car. The case was settled before trial.**
 3. ***Snelson v. Thornhill*, case no. 198CC3183, 31st Judicial Circuit (1998). I was named in my judicial capacity in a request for a writ of prohibition. A motion to dismiss was granted by Judge Holden.**
 4. ***York v. City of Springfield, et al.*, case no. 31305SC549, 31st Judicial Circuit (2005). This was filed in small claims court against the city of Springfield and against me in my judicial capacity. I believe it was a suit requesting refund of a fine imposed in municipal court. The case was dismissed by Judge Bacon.**
24. Have you ever been convicted or received a suspended imposition of sentence for a felony or misdemeanor in state, federal or military court? *(Note that this question does*

not require that traffic offenses or other infractions be listed.)

No.

If your answer is yes, state the style of the case, where it was filed, and explain in detail.

25. Are you delinquent in the payment of any federal, state, county or city taxes? If yes, provide details.

No.

26. You must attach to this application one writing sample of your choice. The only rule, limitation or instruction is that you must indicate whether it was edited by anyone else, and if so, to what degree.

I am the sole author and editor of my writing samples.

27. List/describe any additional honors or awards you have received, activities you have performed, or any other information not set out above that demonstrates the quality of your work as an attorney or that you otherwise believe is relevant to the commission's decision.

-I was an invitee to the following:

- 1. Faculty Development Workshop on DUI Adjudication, National Judicial College, June 3-6, 1996. I was one of 6 associate circuit and municipal judges selected by the Missouri Supreme Court to attend this workshop. Along with Missouri Department of Revenue Employees and Missouri State Highway Patrol employees, we learned how to be effective teachers to others, and then created a CLE program on DWI issues presented to judges around the state.**
- 2. National Judicial Leadership Conference, National Judicial College, March 1-4, 1999.**
- 3. Faculty Development Seminar, Coordinating Commission for Judicial Department Education (Missouri) May 19-20, 1999.**

-I served as a reviewer of the the Environmental Law Deskbook, Missouri Bar CLE Series, from 1989-1990.

-For years, and currently, I have served as the Springfield Municipal Court's representative for the SMBA's "Mentorship Mondays" for new members of the bar.

-Having had the honor of serving on the bench for over 22 years, numerous lessons have been learned. Case filings in the Springfield Municipal Court range from

29,000 to nearly 70,000 annually, so I have adjudicated, literally, hundreds of thousands of cases. Of all the lessons that I have learned “on the job,” perhaps none is more important than this: judges are taught that each case we hear is *the* most important case for the individual(s) in front of us. Over the years, and through the cases, I have learned that exerting extra patience and effort to listen to a story I have heard many, many times before, that very act—of simply paying attention, listening, and allowing the person to have his/her full say—enhances respect for our justice system to a degree exponentially greater than any legal ruling ever could.

At the same time, as evidenced by other sections of this application, I am no stranger to continuous learning in order to enhance the technical aspects of being a judge. Meshing patience by listening with proficiency by learning has been a wondrous and challenging 22-year journey of service. It would be an honor for me to continue this service as an Associate Circuit Judge for the 31st Judicial Circuit.

28. Please list the names of *five* persons whom you will ask to provide letters of reference for you with respect to your judicial qualifications. Do **not** list as a reference a judge of the court involved. As to each of the (5) references, **please provide name, title, mailing address, telephone and e-mail address.** *Please note that it is your responsibility to contact your references* and to see that they send the requested letters in a timely manner and in accordance with the Guidelines for References.

1. The Honorable David Rush
United States Magistrate Judge
222 N. John Q. Hammons Parkway
Springfield, MO 65806
417-865-3761
David_Rush@mow.uscourts.gov

2. The Honorable Thomas Motley
Judge, 38th Judicial Circuit
Branson Municipal Division
President, Missouri Municipal and Associate
Circuit Judges Association (MMACJA)
110 W. Maddux Street, Ste. 205
Branson, MO 65616
417-335-4578
thomasmotley@me.com

3. The Honorable Dennis E. Budd
Judge (retired), 31st Judicial Circuit
Springfield Municipal Division
1825 E. Buena Vista
Springfield, MO 65804
417-882-2198
dennisdebudd@aol.com

4. Ms. Carol Hutcheson
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 3822
Springfield, MO 65808
417-889-3456
carol@hutchesonlaw.com

5. Dr. W.D. Blackmon
Department Head
Department of English
901 S. National
Springfield, MO 65806
417-836-6565
WDBlackmon@MissouriState.edu

***AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF AND CERTIFICATION
OF ACCURACY OF INFORMATION***

By my signature on this form, I certify that all statements made in my application and attachments thereto are correct and that if I am selected by the commission and appointed to the office for which I seek appointment, I will accept the appointment, qualify, and promptly enter upon the performance of the duties of that office as provided by law.

By my signature to this form, I further authorize (1) the commission by its chairperson to obtain relevant information, including but not limited to documents, records, and files about me from educational, law enforcement and disciplinary authorities and from employers and others who may have control of any documents, records, or other information pertaining to my application and suitability for the appointment I am seeking, and (2) the commission and its members to make such additional inquiries and to receive and share amongst themselves such additional information they shall deem appropriate in determining my qualifications for the position for which I seek appointment and the accuracy of my responses to the questions in this application and in otherwise fulfilling its duties. The information obtained under (1) and (2) above shall be made available only to the members of the Thirty-First Circuit Judicial Commission as necessary to perform their duties.